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Magistrate Judge Mary Alice Theiler

3                    **FEB 25 2020**  
4                    AT SEATTLE  
5                    CLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
6                    WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
7                    BY DEPUTY

7                    UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
8                    WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
9                    AT SEATTLE

10                    UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

11                    NO.            **MJ20-087**

12                    Plaintiff,

13                    COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATION

14                    v.

15                    18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1)

16                    NATHAN BRASFIELD,

17                    Defendant.

18                    BEFORE, Mary Alice Theiler, United States Magistrate Judge, U. S. Courthouse,  
19                    Seattle, Washington.

20                    The undersigned complainant being duly sworn states:

21                    **COUNT 1**  
22                    **(Felon in Possession of Ammunition)**

23                    On or about February 6, 2020, in the city of Edmonds, within the Western District  
24                    of Washington, the defendant, NATHAN BRASFIELD, knowing he had been convicted  
25                    of the following crimes punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year, to  
26                    wit:

1 a. Felon in Possession of a Firearm, in the United States District Court for the  
2 Western District of Washington, under cause number CR14-0155JCC, on or about March  
3 31, 2015;

4 b. Possession of Stolen Property in the 2nd Degree, under cause number 02-1-  
5 06564-0, in King County Superior Court, Washington, on or about February 28, 2003;

6 c. Possession of Stolen Property in the 1st Degree, under cause number 00-1-  
7 07131-7, in King County Superior Court, Washington, on or about November 9, 2000;

8 did knowingly possess in and affecting interstate and foreign commerce, the following  
9 ammunition: fifteen rounds of G.F.L, 9mm Luger ammunition, which had been shipped  
10 and transported in interstate and foreign commerce.

11 All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(g)(1).

12 The undersigned complainant, Nathaniel Merritt, being duly sworn, further  
13 deposes and states as follows:

#### INTRODUCTION

14 1. I am a Special Agent (SA) with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms  
15 and Explosives (ATF). I am assigned to the Seattle, Washington, Field Office. I have  
16 been an ATF Special Agent since July 27, 2014. I am responsible for investigating and  
17 enforcing violations of federal firearms laws. I graduated from the Criminal Investigator  
18 Training Program and the ATF Special Agent Basic Training Program, which are both  
19 located at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, Georgia.

20 2. The facts set forth in this Affidavit are based on my own personal  
21 knowledge; information obtained from other individuals during my participation in this  
22 investigation, including other law enforcement officers; interviews of cooperating  
23 witnesses; review of documents and records related to this investigation; communications  
24 with others who have personal knowledge of the events and circumstances described  
25 herein; and information gained through my training and experience.

3. Because this Affidavit is submitted for the limited purpose of establishing probable cause in support of a criminal complaint, it does not set forth each and every fact that I, or others, have learned during the course of this investigation.

## **SUMMARY OF PROBABLE CAUSE**

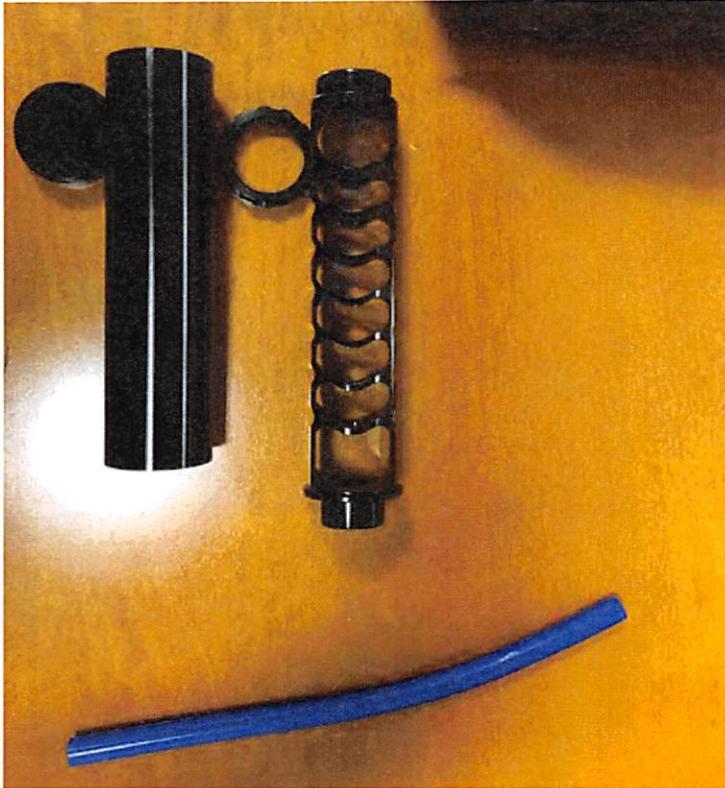
## A. NATHAN BRASFIELD's Background

4. I have reviewed the criminal history for NATHAN BRASFIELD. He has eight felony convictions: felon in possession of a firearm (2015); possession of stolen property (2011); possession of stolen property (2011); theft of telecommunication services (2003); possession of stolen property (2003); taking motor vehicle without permission (2000); taking motor vehicle without permission (2000); and possession of stolen property (1999). The felon in possession of a firearm conviction occurred in the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington. The remaining convictions occurred in the State of Washington. Brasfield was sentenced in excess of a year on his federal conviction as well as the Washington State convictions that are included in the charging language above.

## B. The Search of BRASFIELD's Residence

5. On February 6, 2020, I executed a search warrant at NATHAN BRASFIELD's residence. At the time of the search, BRASFIELD was on federal supervision for his felon in possession conviction.

6. I obtained the warrant after Customs and Border Protection officers seized two packages that were addressed to BRASFIELD at his residence. The package labels described the packages as containing "aluminum tubes." The packages in fact contained five silencers. One of the silencers is depicted below:



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14 7. During the search, agents recovered approximately seventeen pistols and  
15 twenty-four rifles from the residence. Most of the firearms recovered did not have serial  
16 numbers and were home-manufactured.

17  
18 8. In addition, officers recovered approximately twenty eighty-percent pistol  
19 and rifle lower receivers/frames. These eighty-percent lower receivers/frames require  
20 additional machining and milling, in order to be classified as firearms under federal law.  
21 The non-serialized firearms that were recovered appear to have been manufactured from  
22 the same type of eighty-percent lower receivers/frames that were recovered during the  
23 search.

24 9. Agents also recovered firearm manufacturing equipment. BRASFIELD  
25 was in possession of a Computer Numerical Control machine that is known to gun  
26 manufacturers as a "Ghost Gunner." This machine is specifically used for the home  
27 manufacturing of firearms. BRASFIELD also was in possession of a 3-D printer and a  
28 drill press, which also are used in the manufacturing of firearms.

1       10.   Brasfield's roommate, who is not a prohibited person, claimed that the  
2 serialized firearms (approximately eight) belong to him. He told agents that all of the  
3 non-serialized firearms belonged to BRASFIELD. Pictures of four of the non-serialized  
4 firearms are below:





11. Agents also recovered what appear to be an additional ten silencers from  
12 the residence and BRASFIELD's vehicle, a 2008 silver Porsche Cayenne. A picture of  
13 one of the silencers is below:



12. Eight of the silencers were recovered from the vehicle, which was parked in  
13 the driveway of the residence. Agents also recovered packaging addressed to Brasfield  
14 that was used to ship some of silencers. In addition, agents also recovered a loaded, non-  
15 serialized pistol, from BRASFIELD's vehicle. The pistol recovered from the vehicle has  
16 a threaded barrel, which is designed to fit one of the silencers recovered from the vehicle.

1 The pistol was loaded with fifteen rounds of ammunition stamped with "G.F.L, 9mm  
2 Luger"; this stamping indicates Fiocchi Munizioni is the manufacturer.

3 13. In addition to the ammunition recovered from BRASFIELD's vehicle,  
4 agents also recovered thousands of rounds, approximately 300 lbs. of ammunition. Some  
5 of the ammunition was recovered in a safe, but a large amount was recovered outside the  
6 safe. BRASFIELD's roommate stated that the ammunition in the safe was either his or  
7 BRASFIELD's, as they shared the safe. The roommate said that any remaining  
8 ammunition belonged to BRASFIELD.

9 14. Agents also recovered invoices and boxes from firearms dealers that were  
10 addressed to BRASFIELD.

11 15. An ATF interstate nexus expert has examined the Fiocchi Munizioni  
12 ammunition mentioned above, and confirmed that it was manufactured outside the State  
13 of Washington.

14 **CONCLUSION**

15 16. Based on the foregoing, I respectfully submit that there is probable cause to  
16 believe that NATHAN BRASFIELD committed the crime of Felon in Possession of  
17 Ammunition, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(g)(1).

18   
19 NATHANIEL MERRITT, Complainant,  
20 Special Agent, ATF

21 Based on the Complaint and Affidavit sworn to before me, and subscribed in my  
22 presence, the Court hereby finds that there is probable cause to believe the Defendant  
23 committed the offense set forth in the Complaint.

24 Dated this 25 day of February, 2020.

25   
26 MARY ALICE THEILER  
27 United States Magistrate Judge  
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